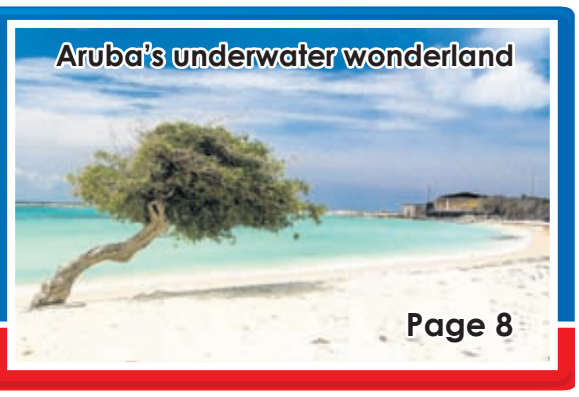






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# George Floyd's killing capped years of violence, discrimination by Minneapolis police

**By JIM SALTER and MARK VANCLEAVE**
**Associated Press**

**MINNEAPOLIS (AP) —** The Justice Department on Friday issued a withering critique of Minneapolis police, alleging that they systematically discriminated against racial minorities, often violated constitutional rights and disregarded the safety of people in custody for years before George Floyd was killed.

The report was the result of a sweeping two-year probe, and it confirmed many of the citizen complaints about police conduct that emerged after Floyd's 2020 death. The investigation found that Minneapolis officers used excessive force, including "unjustified deadly force," and violated the rights of people engaged in constitutionally protected speech.

**Continued on Page 2**



**Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey, left, and Police Chief Brian O'Hara stand during a news conference about a Department of Justice report that found the Minneapolis Police Department has engaged in a pattern or practice of discrimination Friday, June 16, 2023, in Minneapolis.**

**Associated Press**



# George Floyd's killing capped years of violence, discrimination by Minneapolis police

**Continued from Front**

The inquiry also concluded that both police and the city discriminated against Black and Native American people and those with "behavioral health disabilities."

"We observed many MPD officers who did their difficult work with professionalism, courage and respect," Attorney General Merrick Garland told a news conference in Minneapolis. "But the patterns and practices we observed made what happened to George Floyd possible."

Garland said officers routinely disregarded the safety of people in custody, noting numerous examples in which someone complained that they could not breathe, only to have officers reply with a version of "You can breathe. You're talking right now."

Police "used dangerous techniques and weapons against people who committed at most a petty offense and sometimes no offense at all," the report said. Officers "used force to punish people who made officers angry or criticized the police."



**Attorney General Merrick Garland talks about a Department of Justice report that found the Minneapolis Police Department has engaged in a pattern or practice of discrimination during a news conference, Friday, June 16, 2023, in Minneapolis.**

**Associated Press**

Police also "patrolled neighborhoods differently based on their racial composition and discriminated based on race when searching, handcuffing or using force against people during stops," according to the report.

As a result of the investigation, the city and the police department agreed to a deal known as a consent decree, which will require reforms to be overseen by an independent monitor and approved by a federal judge. That arrangement is similar to reform efforts in Seattle, New Orleans, Baltimore, Chicago and Ferguson, Missouri.

Consent decrees require agencies to meet specific goals before federal oversight is removed, a process that often takes many years at a cost of millions of dollars.

Terrence Floyd, a younger brother of George Floyd, praised the Justice Department for its review.

Police Chief Brian O'Hara said his agency was committed to creating "the kind of police department that every Minneapolis resident deserves."

Mayor Jacob Frey acknowledged the work ahead.

"We understand that change is non-negotiable," Frey said. "Progress can be painful, and the obstacles can be great. But we haven't let up in the three years since the murder of George Floyd."

The scathing report reflected Garland's efforts to prioritize civil rights and policing nationwide. Similar investigations of police departments have been undertaken in Louisville, Phoenix and Memphis, among other cities.

The Minneapolis investigation was launched in April 2021, a day after former officer Derek Chauvin, who is white, was convicted of murder and manslaughter in the killing of Floyd, who was Black.

During their May 25, 2020, encounter, Floyd repeatedly said he couldn't breathe before going limp as Chauvin pressed his knee into Floyd's neck for 9 1/2 minutes. The killing was recorded by a bystander and sparked months of mass protests as part of a broader national reckoning over racial injustice.

The Justice Department reviewed police practices dating back to 2016, and found that officers sometimes shot at people without determining whether there was an immediate threat.

Officers also used neck restraints like the one Chauvin used on Floyd nearly 200 times from Jan. 1, 2016 to Aug. 16, 2022, including 44 instances that did not require an arrest. Some officers continued to use neck restraints after they were banned following Floyd's killing, the report said.

The investigation found that Black drivers in Minneapolis are 6.5 times more likely to be stopped than whites, and Native American drivers are 7.9 times more likely to be pulled over. And police often retaliated against protesters and journalists covering protests, the report said.

The city sent officers to behavioral health-related 911 calls, "even when a law enforcement response was not appropriate or necessary, sometimes with tragic results," according to the report.

The findings were based on reviews of documents, body camera videos, data provided by the city and police, and rides and conversations with officers, residents and others, the report said.❑



# Former North Carolina health official is picked to be new CDC director

**By MIKE STOBBE**
**AP Medical Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP) —** Dr. Mandy Cohen, a former North Carolina official, will be the new director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the White House announced Friday.

Unlike the last two people to serve as head of the nation's top federal public health agency, Cohen has prior experience running a government agency: She was secretary of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services from 2017 until last year. Before that, she held health-related jobs at two federal agencies.

"Dr. Cohen is one of the nation's top physicians and health leaders with experience leading large and complex organizations, and a proven track-record protecting Americans' health and safety," President Joe Biden said in a statement.

She succeeds Dr. Rochelle Walensky, 54, who last month announced she was leaving at the end of June. Cohen's starting date has not been announced. Her appointment does not require Senate confirmation.

Walensky, a former infectious disease expert at Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital, took over at the CDC in 2021 — about a year after the pandemic began.



**Secretary of the North Carolina Department Health and Human Services Dr. Mandy Cohen speaks during a briefing on the state's coronavirus pandemic response Tuesday, Dec.22, 2020 at the N.C. Emergency Operations Center in Raleigh, N.C.**

**Associated Press**

Cohen, 44, will take over after some rough years at the CDC, whose 12,000-plus employees are charged with protecting Americans from disease outbreaks and other public health threats.

The Atlanta-based federal agency had long been seen as a global leader on disease control and a reliable source of health information. But polls showed the public trust eroded, partly as a result of the CDC's missteps in dealing with COVID-19 and partly due to political attacks and misinformation campaigns.

Walensky started a reorganization effort that is designed to make the agency more nimble and to improve its communications.

Cohen was raised on Long Island, New York. Her mom was a nurse practitioner. Cohen has a medical degree from Yale and a master's in public health from Harvard.

She also has been an advocate. She was a founding member and former executive director of Doctors for America, which pushes to expand health insurance coverage and address racial and ethnic disparities.

Another founder was Dr. Vivek Murthy, the U.S. surgeon general. The group formed in the midst of an effort to organize doctors into political action and support Barack Obama's candidacy for president.

Cohen started working for the federal government in 2008 at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, where she served as deputy director for women's health services. She later held a series of federal jobs, many of them with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, rising to chief operating officer.

In 2017, she took the health and human services job in North Carolina. A top adviser to Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper, Cohen was the face of her state's response to the coronavirus, explaining risks and precautions while wearing a gold chain adorned with a charm of the Hebrew word for "life."

Some residents dubbed her the "3 W's lady" for her constant reminders to wear a mask, wash hands frequently, and watch the distance from other people. One man even wrote a country-rock ballad praising her with the refrain: "Hang on Mandy, Mandy hang on."

In 2020, Cohen refused to support President Donald Trump's demands for a full-capacity Republican convention in Charlotte with no mask wearing. Her office later said it would accommodate the GOP by relaxing the state's 10-person indoor gathering limit, but it remained adamant about masks and social distancing. Trump ultimately moved the main events from Charlotte.

Cohen resigned the state post in late 2021, saying she wanted to spend more time with her family and pursue new opportunities. She then took a leadership post at Aledade Inc., a Maryland-based consulting company.❑

# Nusrat Chowdhury confirmed as the first Muslim female federal judge in U.S. history

**WASHINGTON (AP) —** Nusrat Chowdhury, a civil rights lawyer, has been confirmed by the Senate as the first Muslim female federal judge in U.S. history.

She will assume her lifetime appointment in Brooklyn federal court in New York after a 50-49 vote on Thursday along party lines.

The confirmation drew praise from the American Civil Liberties Union, where she is the legal director of the ACLU of Illinois. Prior to that post, she served from 2008 to 2020 at the national ACLU office, including seven years as deputy director of the ACLU Racial Justice Program. In a tweet, the ACLU called her a "trailblazing civil rights lawyer."

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., who recommended her, said she makes history as the first Bangladeshi American as well as the first Muslim American woman to be a federal judge.

"Nusrat Choudhury is a shining example of the American Dream," Schumer said in a statement. "She is the daughter of immigrant parents, a graduate of Columbia, Princeton, and Yale Law School, and has dedicated her career to making sure all people can have their voices heard in court."

Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W. Va., voted against the appointment, citing her support for criminal justice reform. He said in a statement that some of her past statements call into question her ability to be unbiased toward members of law enforcement.

After finishing law school, Chowdhury clerked in New York City for U.S. District Judge Denise L. Cote and 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Barrington Parker Jr.




**American Civil Liberties Union attorney Nusrat Choudhury speaks at a news conference in Milwaukee, Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2017.**

**Associated Press**

She has served on the Presidential Task Force on Building Public Trust in the American Justice System.❑

# Heather Mack, convicted in Bali of killing, pleads guilty in U.S.

**By MICHAEL TARM**
**AP Legal Affairs Writer**

**CHICAGO (AP) —** An American woman accused of helping to kill her mother and stuffing her body in a suitcase during a luxury vacation to Bali nine years ago changed her plea to guilty in Chicago federal court on Friday. Her lawyer said later she hoped to avoid a sentence of life behind bars by doing so.

Heather Mack pleaded guilty to one count of conspiring to kill Sheila von Wiese-Mack with her then-boyfriend to get access to a $1.5 million trust fund. Mack, then 18 and pregnant, covered her mom's mouth in a hotel room while Tommy Schaefer bludgeoned her with a fruit bowl, prosecutors say.

The change-of-plea hearing is the latest chapter in a story that has garnered international attention in part because of photographs of the suitcase, which seemed too small to hold an adult woman's body.

Mack, now 27, appeared calm and confident as she stood in orange jail garb and orange slippers, occasionally brushing her hair from her eyes as she answered the judge's questions saying she knew she was giving up her right to remain silent at the hearing. After Mack paused before saying she understood the plea agreement hammered out with prosecutors in preceding weeks, U.S. District Judge Matthew Kennelly noted the hesitation and asked again if she was sure she fully understood it.

"Yes, your honor," she responded.

Two other charges against Mack would be dropped at the end of the sentencing process. Schaefer was convicted of murder and remains in Indonesia, where he is serving an 18-year sentence. He is charged in the same U.S. indictment.

After the hearing, relatives of Wiese-Mack issued a statement saying they were "very relieved that the mastermind of Sheila's murder admitted her guilt today.""We will continue to be our sister Sheila's voice throughout the sentencing process to ensure that real justice is served," they said.

The plea agreement calls for a sentence of no more than 28 years, though Kennelly told Mack he hasn't yet decided whether to accept that sentencing cap. If he rejects it, Mack could withdraw her plea, and either hold fresh plea discussions or go to trial. The judge set a Dec. 18 sentencing date.

A key issue that wasn't decided in talks between prosecutors and the defense prior to Friday's hearing was whether the years Mack spent in prison in Indonesia for a 2015 conviction of being an accessory to Wiese-Mack's murder would be subtracted from whatever U.S. sentence is imposed by Kennelly.

Mack, who lived with her mother in suburban Chicago's Oak Park, served seven years of her 10-year Indonesian sentence. She was deported in 2021 and U.S. agents arrested her immediately after her plane landed at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport. Mack's lawyer, Michael Leonard, told reporters after the hearing that his client's decision to plead guilty was motivated in part by wanting to avoid a sentence of life in prison something that would be off the table under the plea deal, if the judge formally OKs it.

In arguing for leniency at sentencing, Leonard said he would present evidence that Mack has matured and that she was "a fantastic mother" to her and Schaefer's daughter, who she gave birth to in Indonesia after her arrest.

"She is certainly not the person she was," Leonard said. ❑



**Heather Mack of Chicago, Ill., center, is mobbed by reporters as she arrives in the courtroom for her sentencing hearing at a district court in Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia, April 21, 2015**

**Associated Press**

# Donald Triplett, the 1st person diagnosed with autism, dies at 89

**FOREST, Miss. (AP) —** The Mississippi man known as "Case 1," the first person to be diagnosed with autism, has died.

Donald G. Triplett was the subject of a book titled "In a Different Key," a PBS documentary film, BBC news magazine installment and countless medical journal articles.

But to employees at the Bank of Forest, in a small city about 40 miles (64 kilometers) east of Jackson, he was simply "Don," WLBT-TV reported.

Triplett died Thursday, confirmed Lesa Davis, the bank's senior vice president.

He was 89.

Triplett worked for 65 years at the bank where his father Beamon Triplett was a primary shareholder.

"Don was a remarkable individual," CEO Allen Breland said of Triplett, who was known as a fiercely independent savant.




**This image provided by WLBV-TV shows Donald Triplett, the Mississippi man known worldwide as "Case 1," the first person to be diagnosed with autism.**

**Associated Press**

"And he kept things interesting."

Triplett, a 1958 graduate of Millsaps College, enjoyed golf and travel and was frequently flying to exotic locales, Breland said.

"He was in his own world, but if you gave him two, three-digit numbers, he could multiply them faster than you could get the answer on a calculator," he told the television station.

Triplett's autism diagnosis arose from a detailed 22-page letter sent to a Johns Hopkins researcher in Baltimore containing telling observations by his parents about his aptitudes and behavior.

The letter remains a primary reference document for those who study the disorder.

Oliver Triplett, Triplett's nephew, told The Times-Picayune/The New Orleans Advocate that his uncle's story offers hope to parents of children who are different.

"They can see Don and a community who embraced him," he said. "As a whole, Forest encouraged him and accepted him. It gives people who have children on different levels of the spectrum hope that their children can live happy and full lives."

Funeral services for Triplett will be at 11 a.m. Monday at the Forest Presbyterian Church.❑

# Powerful illegal drugs are inundating Europe and sending corruption and violence soaring, EU says

**By SAMUEL PETREQUIN**
**Associated Press**

**BRUSSELS (AP) —** New harmful illicit drugs are inundating a flourishing market for traffickers amid violence and corruption hurting local communities across Europe, the EU's agency monitoring drugs and addiction said Friday.

The grim finding was part of the agency's annual report. It also said that drug users in Europe are now exposed to a wider range of substances of high purity as drug trafficking and use across the region have quickly returned to pre-COVID 19 pandemic levels.

Cannabis remains the most-used illicit substance in Europe, the agency found, with some 22.6 million Europeans over the age of 15 having used it in the last year. Cocaine seizures are "historically high" and new synthetic drugs whose effects on health are not well documented are worrying officials.

In 2022, 41 new drugs were reported for the first time by the agency.

"I summarize this with the phrase: 'everywhere, everything, everyone,'" said European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction Director Alexis Goosdeel. "Established illicit drugs are now widely accessible and potent new substances continue to emerge," Goosdeel added. "Almost everything with psychoactive properties can appear on the drug market." Among the new popular substances, ketamine and nitrous oxide so-called laughing gas are raising concern over reported cases of bladder problems, nerve damage and lung injuries associated with users. Alongside the high availability of heroin on the continent, synthetic opioids are on the rise and have been linked to deaths by overdose in Baltic countries. The report said the opioids situation in Europe is not comparable with the dramatic picture in North America, where overdoses caused by fentanyl and other opioids have fueled a drug crisis.




**European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction Director Alexis Goosdeel addresses the media on the EU Drug Markets Report at EU Commission headquarters in Brussels on Tuesday, April 5, 2016.**

**Associated Press**

But the agency warned that this group of drugs is a threat for the future, with a total of 74 new synthetic opioids identified on the market since 2009.

"We must make sure America's present does not become Europe's future," said Ylva Johansson, the European Commissioner for Home Affairs.

New cannabis products such as the cannabinoid HHC produce strong psychoactive effects and pose another source of concern, especially since they can be found legally in several countries from the 27-nation bloc due to legislation loopholes. France, for instance, only added it to the list of prohibited substances earlier this week.

Meanwhile, record amounts of cocaine are being seized in Europe, with 303 tons stopped by EU member countries in 2021. According to the report, 75% of that quantity was seized in Belgium, the Netherlands and Spain, with the ports of Antwerp and Rotterdam now the main gateways for Latin American cocaine cartels into the continent.

The EMCDDA said the quantity of cocaine seized in Antwerp, Europe's second largest seaport, rose to 110 tons from 91 in 2021, according to preliminary data. In addition, EU countries reported the destruction of 34 cocaine labs as well as large seizures of a precursor necessary to produce cocaine, confirming that "large-scale cocaine production steps take place in the European Union."❑

# U.S. announces sanctions on Mexican migrant-trafficking gang

**MEXICO CITY (AP) —** The United States Treasury on Friday announced sanctions on a Mexico-based migrant-trafficking gang that supplied asylum seekers with false papers to game the process.

Known as the Hernandez Salas organization, the gang is based in the border city of Mexicali, across the border from Calexico, California.

Since at least 2018, the gang organized travel by migrants from "countries posing national security concerns," the Treasury statement said, though it did not specify what countries those were.

However, the department did say the gang smuggled migrants into the United States from Russia, Eritrea, Yemen and Iran, among others.

The Treasury said in a statement that the criminal scheme hurts those who really need asylum protection.

"The practice of human smuggling and the facilitation of fraudulent documentation undermines the U.S. asylum system," the statement said, "damaging public confidence in the vetting process and jeopardizing access to protection for vulnerable persons fleeing conflict, famine, and persecution."

The gang is allegedly run by a woman, Ofelia Hernández Salas, with links to the Sinaloa drug cartel. The sanctions also applied to four associates and two hotels used to house migrants. Hernández Salas is under arrest in Mexico and is awaiting extradition to face U.S. charges.

The department said the gang charged migrants between $10,000 and $70,000 for package deals of travel to Mexico, fake documents and smuggling fees to enter the United States.

The sanctions imposed by Treasury's Office of Foreign Asset Control (OFAC) freeze assets of the companies and people in the United States. They also prohibit U.S. citizens and businesses from any transactions with the targeted entities.❑



**Central American migrants walk in the late afternoon as they leave Mexicali, Mexico, Nov. 20, 2018, on their way to Tijuana.**

**Associated Press**

# U.S., Japan, Philippines agree to strengthen security ties

**By MARI YAMAGUCHI**
**Associated Press**

**TOKYO (AP) —** The national security advisers of the United States, Japan and the Philippines held their first joint talks Friday and agreed to strengthen their defense cooperation, as Washington and its partners reinforce their alliances to adapt to growing tensions over North Korea, China and Ukraine, White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan said.

Sullivan said he and his Japanese and Philippine counterparts discussed the "turbulent regional security environment and how we can collectively work to enhance peace and stability" in areas including freedom of navigation and economic security.

Sullivan, Takeo Akiba of Japan and Eduardo Ano of the Philippines said in a joint statement that they emphasized the importance of enhancing three-way cooperation, building on alliances between Japan and the U.S. and between the Philippines and the U.S. to maintain peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific, especially in the Taiwan Strait.

Sullivan said the "path-breaking" new trilateral framework is part of multiple alliances involving the United States in the Indo-Pacific region, including three-way cooperation with Japan and South Korea and the Quad security dialogue with Australia, India and Japan.

"I would say different groupings may have different points of priority and emphasis, but actually what we are finding is, the agenda is expanding because in a way the world is shrinking. And all of the problems everywhere are coming to touch every country in this area," Sullivan said.

Sullivan said U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken is not expected to make a significant breakthrough during his visit on Sunday to China, while Indian Prime Minster Narendra Modi's state visit to Washington later in the week "will mark a transformational moment in U.S.-India relations."

The three security advisers discussed opportunities for joint naval exercises in Indo-Pacific waters and agreed to deepen military cooperation in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, they said.

During a visit to Tokyo by Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. in February, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida pledged 600 billion yen ($4.3 billion) in development aid and private investment.

The two leaders agreed to have their militaries cooperate in disaster relief operations in the Philippines, seen as a step toward a pact allowing their forces to visit and train on each other's soil.

On Thursday, Sullivan and Akiba held a separate three-way meeting with their South Korean counterpart, Cho Tae-yong, which Sullivan said had a "profound impact" on strengthening their cooperation following a recent improvement in Japan-South Korea ties.

Japan in December adopted a new National Security Strategy in which it set a goal of doubling its defense spending to 43 trillion yen ($310 billion) over the next five years to fund a military buildup, including developing a strike capability in a major break from its self-defense-only policy long observed under its post-World War II pacifist constitution.❑



**White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan takes a question from a reporter at a press briefing at the White House in Washington, Monday, April 24, 2023.**

**Associated Press**

# Russia accuses Australia of 'Russophobic hysteria'

**By ROD McGUIRK**
**Associated Press**

**CANBERRA, Australia (AP) —** Russia accused Australia of "Russophobic hysteria" for canceling the lease on the land where Moscow wanted to build its new embassy, which the Australian government judged to be a security risk because it was too close to Parliament House.

Parliament passed emergency legislation blocking the lease Thursday after Russia won a Federal Court appeal last month against local Canberra authorities' decision to do the same.

The Russian Embassy responded on Friday by posting on social media a Russian news agency TASS report of Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov's condemnation of Australia's actions.

"Australia, having canceled the lease agreement for the site for the construction of the new Russian Embassy building, diligently continues to move forward in the main stream of the authors of the Russophobic hysteria and tries to distinguish itself on this path," Peskov is quoted as saying.

"Another unfriendly display from Australia. We will take this into account and if there are issues on the agenda that require the principle of reciprocity, we will act accordingly," Preskov said.

The Russian Embassy is quoted as describing the lease termination as "another step by (Prime Minister) Anthony Albanese towards a deliberate and systematic destruction of relations with Moscow."

The law ending the lease took effect late Thursday when it was rubber-stamped by Governor-General David Hurley, representing Australia's head of state, King Charles III.

Albanese explained the urgency as a need to prevent the site becoming a "formal diplomatic presence."

Lawmakers cited threats of espionage and political interference if Russia's second embassy was built in the Yarralumla diplomatic precinct so close to Parliament House.

Russia currently occupies the former USSR embassy in the suburb of Griffith, farther from Parliament House than the new site.

The Yarralumla site would have provided Russia with a second cluster of diplomatic buildings in the national capital Canberra.❑



**The Australian flag flies on Parliament House, seen behind an unoccupied building on the grounds of a proposed new Russian embassy near the Australian Parliament in Canberra, Feb. 28, 2023.**

**Associated Press**

# A brief history of the California Light House



**(Oranjestad)—At the furthest western point of the island, there lies the tallest structure on the island: The California Light House. Standing on top of a limestone cliff, this lighthouse oversees the entire island, offering one of few best views of the island and the surrounding sea. It is also one of the few monuments that hold a rich history.**

The lighthouse was constructed in between 1914-1916, and its first keeper was a young trained lighthouse keeper from Curacao names Jacob Jacobs. Mr. Frederico Fingal was the last man to have occupied this position until 1962. Though his son, Mr. Romulo Fingal did not continue in his father's footsteps, he does have a special connection to the lighthouse. He sat down with our reporter and shared a bit of its history.

As Mr. Fingal explains, "In 1915, cargo donkeys were hired from Figaroa di Noord to help build the Lighthouse at Westpunt. The donkeys had to walk along the beach all the way to Westpunt carrying the cargo, poles, cement, and all these things. At that time, it was a difficult task until Aruba got its first truck. These things reflect how people could have accomplished this tremendous job with so little." Mr. Fingal said, "At that time, it wasn't a place for people to work. It was very challenging because it was full of goats and donkeys, and it was very isolated. There were no hotels or roads to get there. There was only a donkey trail. Those were the only means of transportation."

Mr. Fingal continues, "In 1939, I was born in the lighthouse, and my father was the last lighthouse keeper until he retired in 1962. After that, they removed the power cables all the way to the top. According to the story, we couldn't have the light ourselves because they dismantled it, and after many years, I heard that it is in a train museum in San Nicolas, where we found this very special lens that, when the light shines through it, it reaches 30 kilometers out to sea." Mr. Fingal told our reporter.

The lighthouse has a long and very interesting history. The reason why the lighthouse was built, according to Mr. Fingal, dates back to the day when the cargo ship S.S. California sank because of the lack of light. In 1913, Aruba made a request to Curacao to build a Lighthouse at Westpunt, and the governor of Curacao responded to Aruba to come back in 1915 with a well-detailed plan. "During the First World War from 1914 to 1918, they had to wait for the light to be transported to Aruba because it was manufactured in France. At that time, there was no electricity, and the light was very interesting because it rotated with a kerosene lamp that planes used; clean kerosene," Mr. Fingal said.

Mr. Fingal discovered something very interesting about the lighthouse after much research was documented in his book 'History of the Lighthouse at Westpunt.' He found many details: "I found out that the height of the lighthouse was due to the absence of electricity. There was also the presence of coral. There is a long steel cable from where the light is, and under the light, at the highest point, there is a hanging weight, a sort of pendulum that swings like that, with a weight that measures about 1 meter by 30 centimeters wide, which is a block of solid iron attached to a cable. When you release it upwards, it comes down, and the weight that comes down pulls it up, gradually. And while it comes down, the same weight that is descending causes many small wheels to turn in the opposite direction. The Lighthouse rotates from 6 pm in the evening, when the sun sets, until 6 am in the morning. During the entire night, the light shines on the lantern, it goes down 24 meters, and the Lighthouse is 30 meters high. It is designed not to collapse," Mr. Fingal explains.

Mr. Fingal further explains that in one night, the lighthouse rotates 4,320 times and consumes one gallon of kerosene for the whole operation. "At that time, the kerosene was supplied from the Lago refinery. Every day it was brought down, and to start the light again, they had to lift the weight up, so our job as children was to crank it and raise the weight back up in the evening when the light stuck, they would take it down again, and the light stayed down. That's how it worked for a very long time," Mr. Fingal explains.

Thanks to the Monument Fund Aruba, which worked hard and is currently in charge of the Lighthouse, Mr. Fingal is very happy with its preservation, along with all the renovations that have taken place. He hopes that the story of the lighthouse will continue to live on for future generations.❑





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# Aruba's underwater wonderland

**ORANJESTAD - Exploring the underwater wonders is something you should definitely do during your stay in Aruba. The underwater world has everything to offer that makes a snorkel trip so exceptional; an impressive, colorful sea life with exotic fishes, turtles and beautiful coral reef. The historic shipwrecks, located on the Aruban seabed are also worth a visit. Aruba is known for its white beaches and blue oceans, which means there are many fascinating under water spots, where you can take your snorkeling gear and we selected the top spots for you.**

**TresTrapi**

TresTrapi means tree steps in Papiamento, Papiamento is together with Dutch the official language spoken on Aruba. The beach is called TresTrapi because it is accessible by the tree steps carved into the rocks. TresTrapi is a small rocky beach, located on the north-western side of the island, approximately 5 to 10 minute drive from Palm Beach. From the unique steps you can easily walk over the beach into the clear and turquoise blue ocean. While snorkeling you will encounter all kind of tropical fishes and sea stars.

The kind of starfish you will find in the Aruban waters is the red cushion sea star. This is a starfish that is commonly found in the shallow waters of the Caribbean sea and if you are lucky during your snorkeling visit to TresTrapi, you may come across one of the green sea turtles. Respect the animal, keep your distance and enjoy the view. Also remember; it is a once in a life time experience.

**Antilla shipwreck**

Antilla is a 400-foot-long long ship, built in 1939 in Hamburg, Germany. Antilla came to Aruba, because it had to find a neutral port. When Germany invaded the Netherlands on May 10, 1940, the crew decided to let their own ship sink, to prevent it from falling into the hands of the Dutch Navy. Antilla lies on its portside in Malmok bay, and the sunken word war two ship is now one of Aruba's most popular snorkeling and dive spots. However, the ship wreck can only be reached by boat. The ship is visible from the surface and during your snorkeling trip you be surrounded by hundreds of tropical fishes, but the ship wreck alone is already impressive enough.

**Baby Beach**

Baby beach; a white beach, with a crystal blue ocean. The beach is located on the southern part of the island. On the way to the famous beach, you will drive through the old capital of Aruba, San Nicolas. The old Aruban culture can be still felt and experienced here, so do not hesitate to get out of your car and walk around for a while. Baby beach is a child friendly beach, since it is shallow and the water has a pleasant temperature. The name therefore fits well with the beach. Baby beach is an excellent beach for snorkeling, especially if you want to go with small children, because the water remains shallow and there are still many underwater wonders to see. In the ocean there is an area marked until where it is recommended to snorkel and on the beach you will find different facilities. It is a perfect beach to spend your day snorkeling and relaxing.

**MangelHalto**

MangelHalto beach is located in Savaneta, on the southern-west part of the island. The beach is different from the other beaches in Aruba; it is beach full of mangroves. You reach the beach by a bridge through the mangroves and then you will have several entrances to the sea. There are diverse spots where you can enjoy a perfect beach day, wooden stairs made to enter the water and a dock to sit on and enjoy the view.

MangelHalto is also worth a visit for the snorkeling experience. Inside the bay, the water is clear and you find many colorful fish. Outside the bay is a bit more challenging for beginners because of the wind and the waves, but the coral is alive and it is just like snorkel heaven.❑

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# Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Divi Village Golf & Beach Resort

**The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure to recognize Distinguished Visitors of Aruba. This wonderful couple was respectively honored with a certificate acknowledging their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.**

The honor certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests whom have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

**The three honoring levels are as follows:**
Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honorees were:
Distinguished Visitors of Aruba
**Mr. Dennis & Mrs. Susan Romano** from New York, United States.

Ms. Kimberley Richardson representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of the Divi Village Golf & Beach Resort bestowed the certificate to the honorees, presented them with memorable gifts, and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their best-loved vacation destination, and as their home-away-from-home.



On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to Mr. & Mrs. Romano for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island".

Top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the Romano's were:
Aruba's hospitable people.
The Divi Village Golf and Beach Resort!
Aruba's warm consistent weather all year round.
Aruba's wide variety of restaurants.
"Everything!"❑

## Aruba to me

**ORANJESTAD — You are back or still enjoying your vacation?... we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.**

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is ……. Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.



Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.❑



*Part 3*

# Aruba`s Paleo lithic hunters and gatherers

## *A diverse habitats on a small island; Yes! There is a very interesting story concerning Aruba's coastal and inland Mangrove Forests and other ecosystems*

**As time passes by, slowly but steadily sea levels keep on the rise, when mega only lived on, in ancient stories that children love to hear. Now that big animals had disappeared completely from the hunting scene for the archaic other groups already started to exploit and developed a different life style.**

Mangroves covered the leeward side of the island and the cay`s opposite the lagoon almost completely from South- East to North –West by 2800 BC to 200 AD. These first primitive aborigines denominated as archaic settlers did not master ceramic art and did not practiced organized agricultural techniques. However they must have observed that new plants could be grown out of seeds.

This raises the assumption that presumably this wave of Paleo globetrotters were that dispersed many seeds and plants wherever they believed they could ever return. The reason to import floral varieties not present at the time must have played also a vital role in their economy for some of these groups of hunters and gatherers. Soon they realized that the presence of these lush mangrove forests, were of utmost importance as a method of a sustainable livelihood, where food and many source were in abundance.

Harvesting all what these ecosystems could have offered to small groups of individuals who settled all along the coastal areas was a way of life for many generations. The balance rested in cultural dynamics versus total island population in a particular moment in time. Having such wildlife habitat on hand was a reason enough to extend





and prolong permanence on the island. Mangrove eco systems provided fish, shell animals, and game all year long. Most of their tools used where made from stone -artifacts like mortar, metal and axes. They also applied cutting tools made out of shells or flint that where knapped to obtain a fine and sharp cutting edge.

Other food sources and their habitat such as savannas, open country, grasslands and hill sides. Here is where many different cactus figs could be picked.

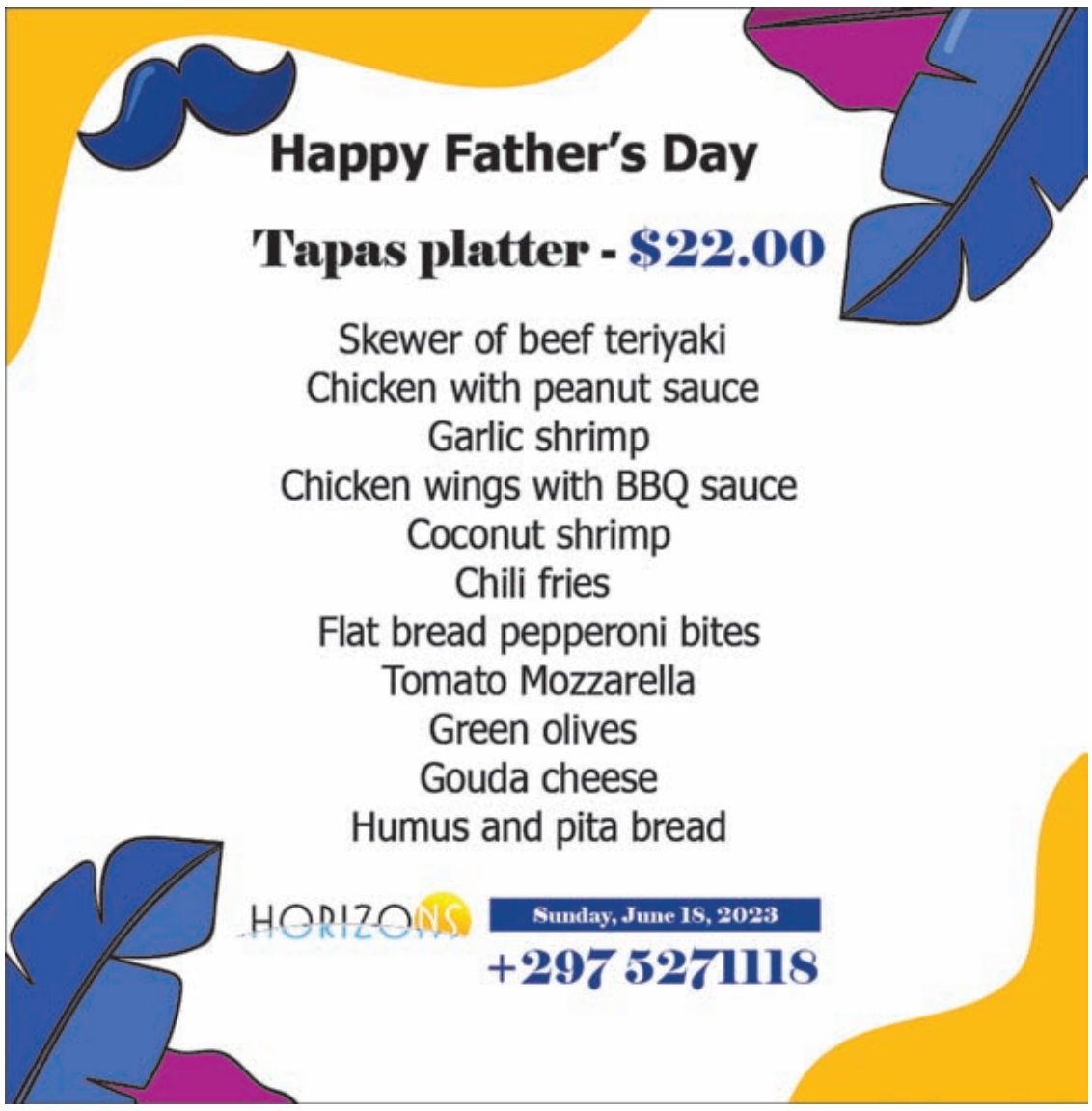
Caribbean cherries and berries, sea grapes, guava, annonas, sapodilla, quenepa and papaya were among the sweetest fruits to recollection close to dry river beds and in to more humid soils. Bromeliads, agaves, wild herbs, certain roots and grasses where part of paleo vegetal menu.

There were also places that could resemble tropical rain forests with blooming orchids, bromeliads, lichens and mosses. Many birds and different animals had made this zone their home and for the hunter a place to obtain medicine, tea, food and feather. There were also Kwihi or Aruban Mesquite forests, which were very cool in hot days and pitch dark at night. Chronicles of a Dutch-German expedition recollecting all kinds of stuff of the island in during an1885 hike. Here they mention that they had walked for hours through a forest of big Kwihi trees. Only in very few can still find one of these native giant majestic trees ever stood have survived the deforestation which took place on this this island since colonial times for all kinds of reasons, to give you an idea how green the island was in Paleo times from the coming of the Europeans until now.

But let's get back to the Paleolithic era where other zones of the island offered fair places to live. Places where it was relatively easy to obtain what to hunt fish or pick and safe shelters like the North side caves and bocas, a word in Papiamento meaning mouth for small inlets. Where small beaches had formed due to millions of years that rain water ran off. This carved out the coral cost in such a way that it gave access to the ocean. Huts or branch shelters were practically easy to build however for more permanent shelters; the many diorite boulders all over the island were the preferred places.

These boulders where covered with vegetation and when agave flower stacks where placed in a row next to each other against these big stone blocks, a very comfortable dwelling could be build, habitats where archaeologist had found remnants of these old settlements and what they had uncovered is for the next and last episode of the Aruban Stone Age nomads also known as the Ciboney. Follow us next week.

**Source; Island Insight Column by Etnia Nativa**



# Preparation for hurricane season

## *What to do before, during, and after a hurricane*





**Every year in Aruba and the other Caribbean Islands, the hurricane season begins in June and ends in November. These months are considered hurricane season due to the large number of storms that form in the Atlantic Ocean and are directed towards the Caribbean region. To survive a hurricane, it is crucial for every individual and their family to be well-prepared before the arrival of a hurricane and know what to do during and after the storm.**

Despite living in modern times where technology allows us to accurately predict the day and time a hurricane will hit an island, it is not advisable to wait until the last moment to start preparing. If you do so, there is a high possibility that you won't be able to adequately prepare due to the extensive preparations required. In a hurricane situation, many people may panic and make poor decisions. That's why it is important to prepare in advance.

**Starting from June 1, begin with:**

- Clearing around your house or Airbnb, getting rid of unnecessary materials that can become projectiles and pose a danger to your family or neighbors. Keep necessary materials in a safe place where they cannot become projectiles.
- Inspect the roof of your house for loose shingles, zinc, or any other roofing material. Repair them or have your renter repair it if you know that your roof is leaking.
- Program emergency numbers in the phones of each family member, such as 911 for emergencies, 100 for the police, and the contact numbers of close family members such as mother, father, siblings, aunts, uncles, grandparents, in-laws. In the event of a hurricane, emergency numbers will be in high demand, and close family members can help each other more easily.

Stay tuned for the second edition of safety tips, where the Department of Public Health in collaboration with the Disaster Management Bureau will provide information on what to do when the possibility is high that our island will experience a hurricane.

For more information, like our Facebook page "Directie Volksgezondheid DVG Aruba," follow us on Instagram "directie_volksgezondheid_aruba," visit our website www.dvg.aw, call us at 5224200, or email us at servicio@dvg.aw.❑

# Create museum memories

**ORANJESTAD — Museums are an integral part of conserving and honoring cultures, and Aruba is no exception. Our Island has a wide selection of various museums for our locals and visitors to see. Take this opportunity to learn about our island and experience a different day beyond the beach. Let us introduce to you these museums.**

**Museum of Industry Aruba**

The Museum of Industry is located in San Nicolas—better known as the art capital of Aruba. This museum exhibits the industrial history of gold, aloe, phosphate, oil and tourism through elaborated displays and multimedia installations.

The Museum of Industry is situated in the Water Tower in San Nicolas and narrates Aruba's industrial history, which began in the 19th century. The Water Tower was built in 1939 and consists of three sections: the substructure, the high-rising vertical shaft, and the tank at the top. The Water Tower was purchased by the Monuments Fund in 2003 so it can be restored and preserved as one of Aruba's monuments. The Museum of Industry is part of Aruba Museum Foundation (Fundacion Museo Aruban), which is a foundation set to maintain, preserve, and protect the Aruban cultural sector, history, and nature. The museum of Industry is open daily from 9 am till 6 pm.

For more information, check out their Facebook page Museum of Industry Aruba.

Archaeological Museum of Aruba

The Archaeological Museum of Aruba is located at Schelpstraat 42 in downtown Oranjestad. The renovated historic Ecury complex in the area has been transformed from a family home to a modern museum that preserves Aruba's Amerindian cultural heritage. This 21st century museum is especially designed to preserve valuable artifacts dating back to the Pre-Ceramic period of 2500 BC.

In the late 1980's, AMA identified its need for an adequate housing for its collection and activities. After studying various options, a project proposal was drawn up, including the acquisition and restoration of historical buildings in downtown Oranjestad.

These historical buildings were formerly the property of the Ecury family. The "Ecury Complex", is a cluster of single and two-story historic buildings, mainly Dutch colonial architecture from the late 19th and 20th century on a plot of approximately 1.700 m2.



In 1997, the Aruban Government bought the complex for the National Archaeological Museum project. In 2004, a financial agreement was signed with the European Development Fund and in 2006, restoration and construction work began on the monumental buildings and the soon-to-be exhibition space. In December 2007, the key to the complex was delivered and the museum's employees moved to the new location. The final design for the exhibit was completed in November 2007 and the permanent exhibit, financed by the Aruban Government and the Union of Cultural Organizations (UNOCA), opened in July 2009.

At the new location, the National Archaeological Museum Aruba disposes of approximately 500 m2 for its permanent exhibit. This exhibit conveys information on the origin and culture of the first inhabitants of the island through archaeological objects and modern exhibition techniques. The new permanent exhibit gives the visitor an insight into the cultures that inhabited the island in Pre-Historical and Early Historical times. The museum also hosts attractive public programs, including lectures, educational projects, temporary exhibits and workshops.

The museum is open daily from 9:30 am till 4:30 pm. For more information check out the Facebook page Museo Arqueologico Nacional Aruba.

ARUBA TODAY

## CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS**

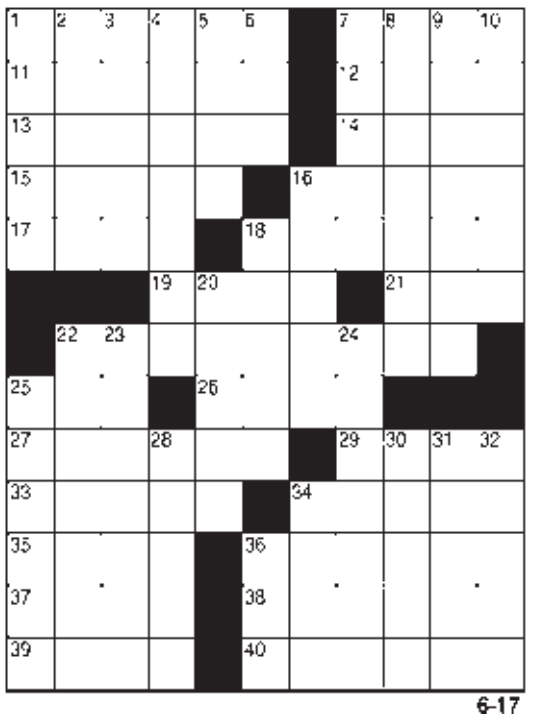
1 Highway divider
7 Frosh's elder
11 Right now
12 Skilled
13 Gently jabbed
14 Bike part
15 Periphery
16 Bulldog
17 Course needs
18 Bow treatments
19 Captured
21 Crafty
22 Swell
25 Upper limit
26 Watch reading
27 Be attentive
29 Bit of rind
33 Diner patron
34 Singer Frankie
35 Shepard in space
36 Plane's place
37 Bakery buy
38 Deep-seated
39 Plops down
40 Gazed

**DOWN**

1 "Olympia" painter
2 Piano piece
3 Avoid
4 Takes in
5 Good pair
6 Homer's neighbor
7 Long tales
8 Cleopatra's Needle, e.g.
9 Without doubt
10 Galileo's crime
16 Abner's surname
18 "The Kiss" sculptor
20 Mink's cousin
22 Fronton sport
23 Parvenu
24 "Joueurs de Cartes" painter
25 Traction aids
28 Circus sights
30 "Enigma Variations" composer
31 List of candidates
32 Worn out
34 Wind pointer
36 Not square

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| P | I | N | O | T | ■ | T | E | N | T | H |
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| R | A | H | ■ | P | S | I | ■ | H | O | W |
| A | T | E | ■ | P | E | N | ■ | E | V | E |
| L | A | S | T | E | D | ■ | B | L | E | D |
| ■ | ■ | H | O | R | A | T | I | O | ■ | ■ |
| S | C | O | W | ■ | T | H | O | N | G | S |
| P | A | R | ■ | F | E | E | ■ | G | E | E |
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| C | A | R | A | T | ■ | A | L | E | R | T |
| E | D | U | C | E | ■ | S | E | R | G | E |
| D | A | N | E | S | ■ | T | I | M | E | R |

Yesterday's answer



6-17

A X Y D L B A A X R
is L O N G F E L L O W

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

6-17 **CRYPTOQUOTE**

Z R X P M O C R O M X P M Z H O C X

Z O H M J T E Y S D R W M R J T X P M

B R C X B Y L M Y Z E Y S O B H Z M J.

— S J W J Y Q J

**Yesterday's Cryptoquote:** GOOD JUDGMENT COMES FROM EXPERIENCE, AND A LOT OF THAT COMES FROM BAD JUDGMENT. — WILL ROGERS

# What if you can't afford long-term care?

**By KATE ASHFORD of NerdWallet**

As many as 8 in 10 older Americans couldn't afford more than four years in an assisted living facility or two years in a nursing home, according to a 2023 analysis by the National Council on Aging and the LeadingAge LTSS Center @UMass Boston.

This is particularly hard for people in the monetary middle, defined by Pew Research Center as "those with an annual household income of about $52,000 to $156,000 annually in 2020 dollars for a household of three." They don't have enough to pay for long-term care, but they have too many assets to qualify for government assistance. Medicare also doesn't cover long-term care. What are the options for the 47 million households with older adults who will face this scenario? From reverse mortgages to hybrid insurance policies, here are some avenues available to people who can't afford the care they need.



**Bret Harte Retirement Inn residents make their way down to the dining room for lunch on May 6, 2020 in Grass Valley, Calif.**

**Associated Press**

**CONSIDER A REVERSE MORTGAGE**

If you have significant equity in your home and you're at least 62 years old, a reverse mortgage can provide a helpful stream of income. A reverse mortgage is a loan or line of credit based on your home's equity. You tap the equity now and pay the loan off when the home is sold.

"What most people do, especially in a situation like a long-term care issue once they're out of the house, you sell it and use the proceeds to pay it off," says Nicholas Bunio, a certified financial planner in Downingtown, Pennsylvania.

A reverse mortgage has downsides closing costs are expensive, similar to taking out a traditional mortgage, and you'll leave less to heirs but if you're planning to receive home care or there's a spouse still at home, it can be a solid option. ❑

# Amazon's $1.7B deal to buy iRobot gets UK approval

**LONDON (AP) —** British antitrust regulators cleared Amazon's purchase of robot vacuum maker iRobot on Friday, but the $1.7 billion deal still faces scrutiny in the United States and Europe. The Competition and Markets Authority said it decided not to escalate its initial investigation because it concluded that the deal would not result in a "substantial lessening of competition" within the United Kingdom.




**An Amazon company logo is seen on the facade of a company's building in Schoenefeld near Berlin, Germany, on March 18, 2022.**

**Associated Press**

Amazon said it was pleased with the result. "We look forward to similar decisions from other regulators soon," the company said in a statement.

Consumer groups have voiced concerns that Amazon's purchase of Bedford, Massachusetts-based iRobot, which makes the popular Roomba robotic vacuum cleaners, would widen the e-commerce giant's dominance in the smart home market.

The acquisition is still facing a review in the U.S. by the Federal Trade Commission amid worries about Amazon's growing market power. ❑



# Suicides and homicides among young Americans jumped early in the pandemic



**A person is silhouetted against the sky at sunset at Papago Park in Phoenix on Thursday, March 2, 2023.**

**Associated Press**

**By MIKE STOBBE**
**AP Medical Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP) —** The homicide rate for older U.S. teenagers rose to its highest point in nearly 25 years during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the suicide rate for adults in their early 20s was the worst in more than 50 years, government researchers said Thursday.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report examined the homicide and suicide rates among 10- to 24-year-olds from 2001 to 2021.

The increase is alarming and "reflects a mental health crisis among young people and a need for a number of policy changes," said Dr. Steven Woolf, a Virginia Commonwealth University researcher who studies U.S. death trends and wasn't involved in the CDC report.

Experts cited several possible reasons for the increases, including higher rates of depression, limited availability of mental health services and the number of guns in U.S. homes.

Guns were used in 54% of suicides and 93% of homicides among the age group in 2021, the most recent year for which statistics were available.

"Picture a teenager sitting in their bedroom feeling desperate and making a decision, impulsively, to take their own life," Woolf said. If they have access to a gun, "it's game over."

Suicide and homicide were the second and third leading causes of death for 10- to 24-year-olds, after a category of accidental deaths that includes motor vehicle crashes, falls, drownings and overdoses. Other researchers have grouped the data by the method of death, and concluded that guns are now the biggest killer of U.S. children.

Earlier this year, Woolf and other researchers looking at CDC data noted dramatic increases in child and adolescent death rates overall at the beginning of the pandemic, and found suicide and homicide were important factors.

**The report also found:**

Suicide and homicide death rates remained far higher for older teenagers and young adults than they were for 10- to 14-year-olds.

In 2021, there were about 2,900 suicides in youths ages 10 to 19, and 4,200 in 20- to 24-year-olds. About 3,000 homicide deaths were reported in the younger group, and nearly 3,900 in the adults in their early 20s. The homicide death rate jumped from 8.9 deaths per 100,000 teens aged 15 to 19 in 2019 to 12.3 in 2020. It rose to 12.8 deaths per 100,000 in 2021, the highest since 1997, according to CDC data.❑




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2 Bed Ocean view $21,000
2 Bed Garden view $16,000
3 Bed Ocean view $29,000
WK 51 Ocean view $55,000
WK 52 Ocean View $55,000
WK 7 and 14 - all views
**GOLD SEASON**
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2 Bed Oceanside $14,000
2 Bed Ocean view $10,000
2 Bed Garden view $8,500
3 Bed Ocean view $18,000
**Marriott Aruba Ocean Club**
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1 Bed Ocean front $16,500
1 Bed Ocean View $14,500
**GOLD SEASON**
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## HEALTH

### DOCTOR ON DUTY

**Oranjestad**
**Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm**
**Tel. 527 4000**

**San Nicolas**
**Imsan 24 hours**
**Tel.524 8833**

### PHARMACY ON DUTY

**Oranjestad:**
**Eagle:** Tel. 587 9011
**San Lucas :** Tel. 584 5119

### OTHER

**Dental Clinic 587 9850**
**Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002**
**Urgent Care 586 0448**
**Walk-In Doctor's Clinic**
**+297 588 0539**

### EMERGENCY

| | |
|---|---|
| Police | 100 |
| Oranjestad | 527 3140 |
| Noord | 527 3200 |
| Sta. Cruz | 527 2900 |
| San Nicolas | 584 5000 |
| Police Tipline | 11141 |
| Ambulancia | 911 |
| Fire Dept. | 115 |
| Red Cross | 582 2219 |

### TAXI SERVICES

| | |
|---|---|
| Taxi Tas | 587 5900 |
| Prof. Taxi | 588 0035 |
| Taxi D.T.S. | 587 2300 |
| Taxi Serv. Aruba | 583 3232 |
| A1 Taxi Serv. | 280 2828 |

### TRAVEL INFO

| | |
|---|---|
| Aruba Airport | 524 2424 |
| American Airlines | 582 2700 |
| Avianca | 588 0059 |
| Jet Blue | 588 2244 |
| Surinam | 582 7896 |

### AID FOUNDATIONS

**FAVI- Visually Impaired**
**Tel. 582 5051**

**Alcoholics Anonymous**
**Tel. 736 2952**

**Narcotics Anonymous**
**Tel. 583 8989**

**Fundacion Contra Violencia Relacional Tel. 583 5400**

**Centre for Diabetes**
**Tel. 524 8888**

**Child Abuse Prevention**
**Tel. 582 4433**

**Quota Club Tel. 525 2672**

### General Info

**Phone Directory Tel. 118**

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# NBA suspends Ja Morant 25 games for 2nd social media video involving a gun

**By TERESA M. WALKER**
**AP Sports Writer**

Memphis guard Ja Morant has been suspended for the first 25 games of the upcoming season for flashing a handgun in a social media video for a second time, the NBA announced Friday.

The Grizzlies star player was shown in the video in May flashing the gun while sitting in the passenger seat of a car. The livestream on Instagram came after Morant served an eight-game suspension for a video in March showing him flashing a handgun in a strip club.

Morant is due to make around $33.5 million this season. He now stands to lose just over $300,000 per game during this suspension or approximately $7.5 million. He also will have to adhere to certain conditions before being reinstated, the NBA said.

"Ja Morant's decision to once again wield a firearm on social media is alarming and disconcerting given his similar conduct in March for which he was already suspended eight games," NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said. "The potential for other young people to emulate Ja's conduct is particularly concerning. Under these circumstances, we believe a suspension of 25 games is appropriate and makes clear that engaging in reckless and irresponsible behavior with guns will not be tolerated."




**Memphis Grizzlies guard Ja Morant (12) plays during the second half of Game 5 in a first-round NBA basketball playoff series against the Los Angeles Lakers, Wednesday, April 26, 2023, in Memphis, Tenn.**

**Associated Press**

The league said Morant "will be ineligible to participate in any public league or team activities, including preseason games" during his suspension.

The Grizzlies suspended Morant indefinitely from team activities after the second video surfaced, in anticipation of an NBA sanction.

"We respect the League's decision to suspend Ja Morant following this latest episode," the Grizzlies said in a statement Friday. "Our standards as a league and team are clear, and we expect that all team personnel will adhere to them."

The two-time All-Star apologized again Friday to the league, the Grizzlies, his teammates and the city of Memphis in a statement issued through his representatives. He told Silver, Grizzlies owner Robert Pera and Memphis general manager Zach Kleiman he is sorry for the harm he's done after being given the chance to be a pro athlete.

Morant also apologized to children who look up to him for failing them as a role model. Morant made clear he's had time to reflect and understands the hurt he might have caused.

"I promise I'm going to be better. To all of my sponsors, I'm going to be a better representation of our brands. And to all of my fans, I'm going to make it up to you, I promise," Morant said.

Morant said he'll use the offseason and this suspension to keep working on both his mental health and decision-making.

On May 24, police conducted a welfare check on Morant and said he was "fine" after cryptic messages appeared on the guard's Instagram account and were later deleted. A police spokesman said Morant told officers he was "taking a break from social media."

"I hope you'll give me the chance to prove to you over time I'm a better man than what I've been showing you," Morant said Friday.❑

# NCAA recommendations include removal of marijuana from banned drug list

**By MICHAEL MAROT**
**AP Sports Writer**

**INDIANAPOLIS (AP) —** An NCAA medical committee wants to remove marijuana from the banned drug list and consider whether testing should be limited to performance-enhancing drugs.

The legislation must still be introduced and approved by all three NCAA divisions. Administrators from Division II and Division III asked the committee to look into the marijuana issue and a final decision is expected this fall.

The NCAA's committee on safeguards and medical aspects of sports also recommended suspending marijuana testing at NCAA championship events until a final judgment about the proposal is made, establishing a trace-level threshold for a banned hormone and metabolic modulator and updates to the governing body's best practices on mental health.



**An overall general view of the field during an NCAA college baseball tournament super regional game between LSU and Kentucky in Baton Rouge, La., Sunday, June 11, 2023.**

**Associated Press**

But the marijuana proposal will likely be the most pivotal change.

Last December, at a summit on marijuana use among college athletes, it was determined the drug is not performance enhancing and that NCAA schools should focus more on educating athletes about the harms of marijuana and reducing use of the drug rather than imposing penalties.

Separately, the committee also proposed setting a threshold of 0.1 nanograms per milliliter as a trace level for the hormone GW1516. It hopes to prevent athletes becoming ineligible because of ingesting the substance unintentionally from contaminated supplements.

The substance was initially designed for diabetes treatment but was discontinued in 2007.

It has been linked to positive doping tests in endurance-related sports.❑

# Berhalter back as U.S. coach after feud, domestic-violence investigation

**By RONALD BLUM**
**AP Sports Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP) —** Gregg Berhalter was rehired as U.S. men's national team coach through the 2026 World Cup, returning to the job after he led the Americans to the second round of last year's tournament and then was dropped amid a feud with a famous soccer family and a domestic-violence investigation.

The U.S. Soccer Federation announced Friday Berhalter had been hired through the 2026 tournament that it will co-host. The USSF planned a news conference for later in the day in Las Vegas, where interim coach B.J, Callaghan led the team to Thursday night's 3-0 win over Mexico in the CONCACAF Nations League.

"When I started this search, my focus was on finding someone with the right vision to take this program to new heights in 2026," new USSF sporting director Matt Crocker said in a statement. "Gregg has that vision, as well as the experience and growth mindset on and off the field to move this team forward."



**U.S. coach Gregg Berhalter gestures during the team's World Cup round of 16 soccer match against the Netherlands at Khalifa International Stadium in Doha, Qatar, Dec. 3, 2022.**
**Associated Press**

Callaghan will remain as interim coach for Sunday's Nations League final against Canada and for the CONCACAF Gold Cup from June 24 to July 16. Berhalter will return after that for a schedule that includes October exhibitions against Germany and Ghana.

Crocker said he planned to "work collectively with Gregg on some of the big-picture items away from the team."

Berhalter, 49, was hired in December 2018 after the failure to qualify for that year's tournament in Russia and coached the Americans at last year's World Cup in Qatar, where they were eliminated with a 3-1 loss to the Netherlands. The U.S. gets an automatic berth in the 2026 World Cup as co-host with Mexico and Canada.

He led the Americans to 37 wins, 11 losses and 12 draws and was discussing a new contract with USSF sporting director Earnie Stewart when the family of Gio Reyna, upset with his lack of playing time in Qatar, contacted the USSF about the allegation involving Berhalter in a 1992 incident with the woman who became his wife.❑

# Antonio Brown's tenure as arena league owner ends

**By JOHN WAWROW**
**AP Sports Writer**

Former NFL receiver Antonio Brown's brief and chaotic tenure as a National Arena League owner appears to be over after the league terminated the Albany Empire's membership over a failure to make its monthly payments.

The NAL on Thursday announced its board of owners unanimously reached the decision after "exhausting all avenues" over the Empire's refusal to make its past two payments, as well as Brown refusing to pay a $1,000 fine conduct detrimental to the league over recent comments. The termination ends the Empire's season at 1-6 and with seven games remaining.

Brown became part owner of the two-time defending champion Empire in March and then last month took over a 94% stake in the franchise based in New York's state capital.

The NAL said that upon taking over ownership, Brown initially paid the Empire's April assessment, before challenging it a month later and having it credited back to him, while also failing to make the team's payment for May. Teams are required to make the payments, which represent one-seventh of the league's monthly operating budget.

The NAL said Brown's accountant, Alex Gunaris, informed the league "that it didn't seem like Mr. Brown was going to pay the assessment or fine."



**Tampa Bay Buccaneers wide receiver Antonio Brown (81) walks on the field during an NFL football game against the New York Jets, Sunday, Jan. 2, 2022, in East Rutherford, N.J.**
**Associated Press**

A message left with Empire president Alberony Denis was not immediately returned.

Albany County's executive committee released a statement, saying: ""This is an unfortunate situation. We are aware MVP Arena management is alerting ticketholders and we will be reviewing options moving forward." MVP Arena management, which operates the Empire's home, announced it is refunding tickets purchased for the team's final three home games.

Brown spent the 2010 to 2018 seasons with the Pittsburgh Steelers, where he emerged as one of the NFL's top threats, and twice led the league in yards receiving. His career then took a downturn due to various on- and off-field controversies, included his contract being voided by the Oakland Raiders before the start of the 2019 season.

He split his final three NFL seasons with New England and Tampa Bay, and his career ended with Brown stripping off his jersey, pads and gloves, while walking off the field during the Buccaneers' 2021 regular season finale against the New York Jets. Brown announced his retirement a few months later.

The drama carried over into Brown's tenure in Albany. Players and suppliers complained about not getting paid, the Empire changed coaches three games into the season at the same time eight players were suspended after one player filed an aggravated harassment report with police over a dispute that occurred on the team bus, The Albany Times-Union reported last month.❑

# Weekly SPECIALS

WAS $22.85 — **$21.14** Per KG



Angus Top Sirloin Steak

WAS $7.71 — **$6.28** Per KG



Broccoli Crown

WAS $10.85 — **$9.71** Per KG



BBQ/Grill Loinribs

WAS $12.28 — **$10.85** Each



Cherry Red Clamshall 2LB

WAS $2.22




Carrot Mini Peeled 1lb — **$1.97** Each

WAS $9.88



Oscar Mayer Bacon Hardwood smoked 16oz — **$8.57** Each

WAS $9.23




Cheerios Frosted Cereal 13.5oz — **$7.99** Each

WAS $4.33




Prego Heart Smart Traditional 23.5oz — **$3.99** Each

WAS $3.08




Muellers Thin Spaghetti 16oz — **$2.28** Each

## DIARY/FROZEN

WAS $3.97



Kerrygold Garlic and Herb Butter 3.5oz — **$3.54** Each

WAS $4.91



Campione Garlic Bread 16oz — **$3.99** Each

## HBC/GM

WAS $4.57



Vaseline Pure Petroleum Jelly Original 250ml — **$3.99** Each

WAS $40.42



Daewoo Pro Hair Straightener Gold 1in — **$31.42** Each

## DELI/BAKERY

WAS $2.20



Swiss Cheese — **$1.71** 100 GR

WAS $1.14



Black Forest Ham — **$1.42** 100 GR

## AVAILABLE AT SHABA AND SAVANETA

WAS $3.31




Bio+Aardbeien Jam 250gr — **$2.85** Each




Gwoon Zilvervlies Rijst 400gr — **$1.15** Each

WAS $4.28




Chocomel Dark 1L — **$3.42** Each

WAS $1.73



Gwoon Picalilly 370gr — **$1.65** Each

WAS $2.59




Unox Cup a Soup Erwten 51gr — **$2.11** Each

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